

Application No.: 10/501,936
Filing Date: May 19, 2006

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Boykin for the courtesy of the telephonic interview conducted on November 20, 2008. With this amendment, Claims 42-56, 58-66 are pending. In view of the interview, and in order to expedite prosecution, Claim 57 has been presently cancelled.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

The Examiner rejected Claims 42-66 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 3,051,993 to Goldman. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As discussed and agreed during the interview, Goldman fails to disclose the combination of limitations recited in independent Claims 42 and 50. For example, Goldman fails to teach or suggest at least two limitations of these claims: heating to a temperature between room temperature and the crystalline melting temperature, and compacting at a temperature between room temperature and the crystalline melting temperature.. Consequently, Applicants believe that these claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants further submit that Claims 43-49, 51-56 and 58-66, which depend from Claims 42 and 50, respectively, recite a unique combination of features not taught or suggested by the cited art, and that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicants are not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not

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reasonably infer that Applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney in the event that such communication would expedite allowance of the application.

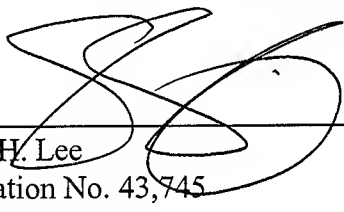
Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: December 17, 2008

By: _____


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